



TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Forensic Services Division

Violent Crime Response Team Standard Operating Procedures Rendering a Firearm Safe

10. VCRT Procedures

10.1 Rendering a Firearm Safe

10.1.1 Scope

Firearm safety is vital at any crime scene. Firearms must be rendered safe before submission to the Crime Laboratory.

10.1.2 Definitions

Refer to VCRT 11.0 Definitions and Abbreviations

10.1.3 Equipment and Supplies

Recovered firearm

Box

Flagging device (i.e. cable tie, crumpled paper)

10.1.4 Procedure

Assume all firearms are loaded.

Make the firearm safe:

- Point the muzzle in a safe direction
- Keep your finger off the trigger
- Remove detachable magazines
- Open the action and visually inspect the chamber
- Clear any rounds from the chamber

Attach a flagging device, through the magazine well or through the frame of the weapon to indicate that the firearm has been rendered safe and is incapable of loading another live round.

Place the date, case number and the initials of the person clearing the weapon on the outer packaging.

Any firearm whose condition prevents visual examination of the firearm's chamber must be assumed to be loaded. Every reasonable effort must be made to minimize the possibility of ignition of the firearm. The weapon can then be packaged properly and transported. The outer packaging shall be clearly marked to identify as containing a weapon that has not been rendered safe.



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Every reasonable effort will be made to protect transient evidence which may be located on the firearm. Once the firearm is rendered safe, handling shall remain limited.